

May 7, 1960

Dr. Ernest Pollard
Biophysics Department
Box 2166 Yale Station
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Ernie:

Thank you for your letter of the 2d.

I was sure you had done what you could in regard to the accelerator and other Science appropriations; the one additional point I wanted to have available to you was the effect it might have in California to set up this bizarre identification of overconservatism in science appropriations with the Democratic party! Repr. Gubser is, I am sure, going to make some capital out of the Stanford issue in this district, and I don't have to stress how important California will be in the presidential election. (Nor should the state be abandoned as a pro-Maxon certainty; far from it).

I will be happy to help the work of your committee if I can do most of it by long distance; or can catch your meetings by luck. At any rate, I know I could back up almost every release it has made to date. I particularly agreed with the (prematurely released?) critique of Mercury; I ~~was~~ am not sure it is either wise or feasible to make this an issue of party policy, since many Democrats are already identified with overemphasis on astroautics.

May I ask, however, that you wait a little while before making any public announcement of my affiliation/ with the Committee? In confidence, I can mention ~~xxx~~ that we are negotiating with the Kennedy Foundation for a substantial grant to the medical school and to work in genetics in particular, and they might be annoyed at being vulnerable to suggestions of political implications. I can let you know when this has crystallised. Meanwhile, I would be happy to see any papers you may have set up. I may have a chance to see you at New Haven on June 13 if you are there at that time.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. - Hammond from New

POLLARD, E.